

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have canceled claims 7 and 12 herein. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-6, and 9-11 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claims 1, 3-6, and 9-11.

3.) Claim Objections

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 12 due to informalities. The Applicants have canceled claims 7 and 12.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On Page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 7 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shen et al. (EP 1389862) in view of Vayanos, et al. (US 6847623). The Applicants have canceled claims 7 and 12.

5.) Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-6, and 9-11.

Respectfully submitted,



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